Resumption of Doha talks

† 2455. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a possibility of resumption of talks, after failure of Doha talks in July, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is a fact that there is a consensus among the G-20 countries regarding providing agriculture related subsidy by America;

(c) if so, the details of their view; and

(d) whether any change in the attitude of America is perceptible in respect of reasons for the failure of talks earlier; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Director-General, World Trade Organisation (WTO) in his capacity as Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), reported the full resumption of the negotiations under the Doha Work Programme, at the meeting of the General Council of the WTO held on 7 February, 2007.

There is a consensus among the G-20 countries regarding the required reductions in agricultural trade-distorting subsidies provided by the United States to its farm sector.

(d) There has been no change in the formal position of the United States since July 2006, on the issue of its agricultural subsidies.

Industrial policy for the North-Eastern States

† 2456. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the industrial policy of the Central-Government for the North-Eastern States;

(b) since when this industrial policy came into force in the region;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.